

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00225 281141Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6726
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RUTAAMAMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE 2197
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0225

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT LINE ADDED)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, MZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACHES TO FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS

REF: STATE 049593

1. WE AGREE WITH REFTEL THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO APPROACH MACHEL
AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH HIM IN FAIRLY FRANK TERMS
OUR VIEWS ON RHODESIAN SITUATION AND TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON HOW
WE MIGHT TOGETHER PROCEED FROM HERE TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT INVOLV-
ING ALL THE PARTIES. YERGIO VIEIRA TOLD US JUST YESTERDAY THAT
MACHEL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUA-

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TION. BELIEVE MACHEL WILL BE PLEASED TOO TO FIND WE STILL TALKING
OF WORKING "TOGETHER" IN SEEKING SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF RHODESIA.

2. IN APPROACHING MACHEL, BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID SUGGESTING
(AS IN PARA TWO REFTEL) THAT SITUATION IN RHODESIA TODAY HAS BEEN
CREATED IN PART BY OUR INABILITY TO GET NECESSARY ENDORSEMENT
FOR OUR PLAN FROM MACHEL OR HIS FRONT LINE COLLEAGUES. WE DO NOT

BELIEVE THIS SERVES USEFUL PURPOSE AND IT IS UNFAIR TO MACHEL,

WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF OUR INITIATIVE AND HELPFUL WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. BELIEVE MACHEL SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED FOR HIS RECENT HELP, NOT CHIDED FOR NOT DOING MORE.

3. INSOFAR AS MACHEL IS CONCERNED, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE NOT STATE OR IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT WE ARE NOT PURSUING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. ON CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL MACHEL AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT WE ARE COUNTINUING TO PURSUE THE PLAN AND HAVE EVERY INTENTION TO PERSIST IN OUR EFFORTS TO FIND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS. AS EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING OUR PLAN, WE SHOULD NOTE THAT WE HAD TOLD ALL THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS IN EARLY FEBRUARY THAT WE WERE READY AND EAGER TO MEET WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. UNFORTUNATELY, NKOMO AND MUGABE HAS NOT SHOWN ANY SIMILAR SENSE OF URGENCY. NOW, JUDGING BY THEIR STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 25 (MAPUTO 0224), WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SERIOUS TALKS. HOW ELSE CAN WE EXPLAIN THE GRATUITOUS AND INSULTING ATTACK ON OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL MACHEL THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT NOW FOR OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS AND THE PLAN UNLESS WE HAVE SOME CLEAR INDICATION FROM NKOMO AND MUGABE THAT THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THE TALKS AND THAT THEY INDICATE THIS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. OTHERWISE, THE UK AND US PUBLICS SIMPLY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND WHY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO TALK OF THE AAP AS AN
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ALTERNATIVE TO AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE FEBRUARY 25 PF STATEMENT, WE WONDER IF ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IS SERVED BY TALKING TO NKOMO AND MUGABE AT THIS TIME. IN FACT, WE SEE CERTAIN ADVANTAGE IN NOT SEEKING THEM OUT AND IN INDICATING TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT WE SEE NO USEFUL PURPOSE IN DOING SO UNLESS MUGABE AND NKOMO INDICATE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ESSENTIALS OF OUR PROPOSAL AND ARE READY TO CO-OPERATE WITH US IN NEGOTIATING AN EARLY AGREEMENT. WE SHOULD ASK THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

5. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE ACKNOWLEDGE TO MACHEL, AS HE ALREADY KNOWS, THAT WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA AND THAT WE ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS UPON THEM, AS MACHEL HAS URGED US TO DO, THE DESIRABILITY OF SEEKING A SETTLEMENT THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY, LEST THEY RISK PROLONGING THE WAR AND FUTHER DELAYING THE ATTAINMENT OF A LASTING, AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WE WOULD ADD FOR MACHEL THAT IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ARE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE TO CONVEY SUCH A MESSAGE FOR HIM TO MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTSIDE POWERS TO INTERVENE. OF COURSE THE US AND

UK GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE OF THESE DANGERS AND ARE SEEKING TO MAKE
THEIR PUBLICS AWARE OF THEM TOO, BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME BEFORE THE
PUBLIC IS FULLY AWARE OF THESE "REALITIES."
DE PREE

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